



**Statement of H.E. the Ministry of Economy of Portugal,
Mr. Manuel Caldeira Cabral, to the 10th Ministerial Conference
of the World Trade Organization**

Nairobi, 17 December 2015

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Colleagues, Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to the Government of Kenya, in the person of Ambassador Amina Mohamed, for welcoming us in Nairobi, at the historical occasion of the first WTO Ministerial in Africa. And express my complements to Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo, for the hard and rigorous work over the last two years.

The work of WTO, in promoting Multilateral rules based trade liberalization, gave an important contribute to growth and development in the last decades. A work that is far from completed.

Trade is based on free relationships that promote mutual gains for the partners involved. International Trade is a powerful instrument in promoting efficiency, technology transfer, competition and market transparency. Open trade is not a luxury, or a concession, but an indispensable tool to promote growth and development in the emerging and developing economies. It is a challenge that we should all embrace.

Portugal fully supports the constructive role assumed by the European Union in building bridges and promoting that Nairobi is a success.



Portugal as a long and rich history of trade and cultural relationship with Africa. A relationship made of cultural links, of shared culture and history that today is revived in a strong commitment in investments and opening of business opportunities.

The Nairobi WTO's 10th Ministerial should mark history for reaching an outcome as balanced as possible in export competition, and above all as ambitious as possible in development issues.

The entry of new countries (Seychelles and Kazakhstan, that joined recently; and Liberia and Afghanistan) that we welcome, and the agreement on ITA are positive outcomes that we strongly support. The development agenda should not be frustrated. We are in Africa and African countries deserve this step forward.

Even if all the ambitions cannot be met, Nairobi can be a success if as an outcome of the 10th Ministerial we agree on new and more effective ways of pushing forward a Nairobi agenda for the coming years that should consider new issues (such as investment, e-commerce, and environment sustainability), and alternative working methods, where plurilateral work is an instrument to achieve multilateral results, that push forward a sustainable and balanced reformist agenda of trade liberalization and development.

WTO remains for us the negotiating *forum* that embodies the value of the multilateral trading system and a longstanding commitment in a strengthened rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system. WTO can always count with Portugal to support this values, and to give an constructive contribute to create more opportunities for the developing countries to build the capacity and face new challenges of growth and development.